

**Village of Indian Head Park  
201 Acacia Drive  
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

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**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to: a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, and a record of votes taken.”*

**Thursday, June 10, 2010  
7:30 P.M.**

**★ CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joe Consolo called the roll as follows:

**★ ROLL CALL: JOSEPH V. CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK**

**PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):**

Mayor Richard Andrews  
Trustee Debbie Anselmo  
Trustee Brian T. Bailey  
Trustee Anne Bermier  
Trustee Carol Coleman  
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer  
Trustee Matthew P. Walsh II

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration  
Dave Brink, Administrative Services  
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk  
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin  
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

**NOT PRESENT:**

Steve Busa, Treasurer

**★ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Richard Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He dedicated the pledge in honor of all individuals serving in the armed forces around the world especially those currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and those that will be deployed to that part of the world as their tour of duty:

***“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”.***

## **★ MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Andrews reported that he is pleased to announce a donation in the amount of \$150.00 from the Indian Head Park Woman’s Club to be used for repairs or maintenance of the Indian Head Park Heritage Center. He noted that Trustee Coleman is the Philanthropy Chairman of the Woman’s Club and he thanked the entire organization for their contribution. Mayor Andrews also mentioned that he received correspondence from Jane Kuhn, a docent at the Heritage Center Library, asking the Board to paint the Heritage Center. He noted that as soon as the Village has available funds in the budget to paint the Heritage Center the work will be completed.

Mayor Andrews stated that Stan Dzierwa, the father of Police Officer Michael Dzierwa, recently passed away. On behalf of the Board, he expressed condolences to the Dzierwa family.

Mayor Andrews noted that he received a letter from Pace Bus regarding Pace Bus Route 669 which serves Indian Head Park at various locations along Wolf Road to the Western Springs train station. He noted that approximately 41 persons ride that route each day for their commutes and the subsidy per rider amounts to \$6.45 with a recovery ratio of 20.1%. Mayor Andrews noted that the system average subsidy on a weekday route is generally \$2.49, it is nice to have a public transportation system in the community that is utilized by residents of the community and he encouraged residents to increase ridership on the Pace Bus Route 669 to be able to maintain the service.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Village of Willow Springs will be hosting a West Suburban Chicago Region Chili Cook-off which will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at One Village Circle in Willow Springs and prizes will be awarded. He noted that further details will be provided in the next issue of Smoke Signals for those that may wish to participate.

Chief Frank Alonzo reported that a traffic study has been completed by Safe Speed, southbound traffic to Willow Springs Road was monitored as well as Joliet Road and Willow Springs Road. At those locations during a 24 hour period there were 205 violations at one location and about 140 violations at another location. Chief Alonzo stated that the majority of traffic violations were for motorists turning right on red lights without stopping, a few left turns after the light changed and a few motorists that crossed the intersection after the light turned red. He noted that accident data is also being researched and a report has not yet been provided to the Village from Safe Speed.

Mayor Andrews noted at the last Board meeting, a request was made by Al Krisciunas, a representative of the Acacia Association regarding four items:

(1) the possibility of installing a caution sign at Acacia Drive on the east approach at Westwood. Chief Alonzo stated he has no objections to a caution sign in that location; (2) a request for a stop sign to be replaced at 111 Cascade Drive. Chief Alonzo stated he has no objections to the replacement of the stop sign in that location; (3) a list of various broken curbs in front of several townhome units was presented by a representative of Acacia. Mayor Andrews stated that curb replacements and repairs are generally included in road improvement projects based on funds available in the budget as well as a comprehensive evaluation by the Village Engineer for those streets that require maintenance. He noted that the Village's budget deficit is already \$125,000 without including any new projects to the list and; (4) sinking manholes at three addresses in Acacia were brought to the Village's attention by a representative of Acacia. Mayor Andrews asked Frank Alonzo and Superintendent Santen to meet with Acacia representatives to evaluate the manholes.

★ **CONSENT AGENDA**

***Approval of an Ordinance Establishing Prevailing Wage Rates for the Village of Indian Head Park (Ordinance #2010-3)***

***Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing a Contract Between the Village of Indian Head Park and the Township of Lyons for Police Patrol (Ordinance #2010-4)***

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

★ **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - May 13, 2010*

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey to approve the May 13, 2010 regular Board meeting minutes, as amended. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

★ **AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND A POSSIBLE VOTE MAY TAKE PLACE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS LISTED)**

**1. Discussion Regarding a Stop Sign at Tecumseh Lane and Cochise Drive**

Trustee Bailey stated motorists entering the single family homes area of the Village at the top of the hill on Tecumseh Lane and Cochise Drive can either turn left or turn right. He noted that traffic to the left at that location has a stop sign and there is no stop for cars turning right.

Trustee Bailey stated the turn is becoming dangerous especially when more than one car needs to enter that street from Wolf Road and a car is coming down the hill from Cochise without a stop. Trustee Bailey suggested that possibly it would be safer for traffic at that intersection if there was a stop sign in both directions. Trustee Coleman stated for the safety of everyone the Village should check into whether a stop sign is needed in the location mentioned by Trustee Bailey. Chief Alonzo stated that there is no objection in placing a stop sign in that location if the Board decides a sign is needed.

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to direct Counsel Ramello to prepare an ordinance amending the section of the Municipal Code regarding stop signs to include the location of Tecumseh Lane and Cochise Drive. Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to direct Counsel Ramello to prepare an ordinance for the Board's consideration at the next meeting amending the Municipal Code to include a stop sign at Tecumseh and Cochise Drive. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

## **2. Budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011**

Mayor Andrews stated the budget for fiscal 2010/2011 was discussed at great lengths at the last Village Board meeting. He noted that the last budget draft distributed to the Village Board had a budget deficit of \$125,000. Mayor Andrews summarized the following budget items: (1) a van is needed for Public Works and instead of purchasing a vehicle one may be leased; (2) 2 police vehicles are needed; (3) contract negotiations will be coming up with the police union representatives at the end of the year and; (4) the Wilshire Green Retention Pond is in need of maintenance. Items that are not included in the budget deficit are curb repairs for Acacia, painting the Heritage Center and repaving some streets that are in need of maintenance at approximately \$500,000. Mayor Andrews pointed out that the Village is down one full-time police officer, the current budget does not reflect pay increases for employees and the leaf pick-up program is currently not included in the budget.

Mayor Andrews stated that an increase in revenue to the Village is needed especially due to a slow economy and a lack of revenue coming back to the community from a variety of sources. He noted that the bond certificate financing payments will be increasing substantially in four years and the Village needs to start thinking now how those payments will be made. Mayor Andrews stated that Indian Head Park is not a home rule community and perhaps there would be a variety of options to increase revenues to the Village if Indian Head Park was a home rule community. He noted that a referendum question may be placed on the November ballot asking residents to vote on home rule status for Indian Head Park to help enhance revenues to maintain Village property values and maintain services.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Board will be discussing various budget items including: (1) methods to ask for home rule authority to grant the Village Board the ability to levy certain fees without presenting it to the community for a vote; (2) to possibly ask for a property tax increase.

He noted that the Village has not had a local property tax increase in over fifteen (15) years; (3) the economy has been slow and construction of new homes is not taking place so less permits have been issued; (4) the increase in sales tax helped especially since the sales tax sharing agreement with Brookside Plaza recently ended but there is still a shortfall in revenue; (5) business fees and rates were adjusted previously; (6) water and sewer rates increases over the past few years is due to pass through charges from other sources to deliver water to Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews stated that in approximately 1996 residents voted at that time to grant the Village authority through a referendum vote to add to the property tax bill to fund street improvements through a 1997 bond issue which will be paid off at the end of 2011. The property tax bill will be reduced when that bond issue is paid off. He noted that the Village's share of the property tax bill is a very small portion that comes back to the community and there are new streets that are in need of maintenance. Mayor Andrews stated that a Special Service District Area can also be created to pay for street improvements. Counsel Ramello stated that by creating a special service district area for the whole Village 51% of the voters in Indian Head Park may vote to object to the Special Service District Area and the referendum would be defeated. Counsel Ramello stated that Special Service Areas are typically limited to smaller areas to limit the number of objectors so at least 51% of the voters would be in favor of the project. Mayor Andrews stated there are streets on the north end of town and also on the south end of town that need work and those streets are not contiguous. He asked if a Special Service Area could be created to specifically name certain streets that need repairs as part of one service area. Counsel Ramello stated that two separate service areas would need to be created for different streets.

Mayor Andrews stated that he asked Counsel to provide the Board with an opinion on procedures to establish a home rule community. He noted there are tools available to the Village that are not available now as a non-home rule community. Mayor Andrews stated that 50 years ago when the Village was first incorporated there may not have been a need to be a home rule community or even fifteen to twenty years ago. He noted the problem in this day and age is that the Governor can sign into legislation a reduction to local municipalities of revenue sharing of the income tax which would result in decreased revenues to the Village. Mayor Andrews stated even if the Village supported a tax increase that question would need to be placed on a ballot at a General Election. He noted that every other year there are two elections and the intermediate year there is only one election. Mayor Andrews stated a Primary Election was held this year and there is a General Election in November. In 2011, there is only a Municipal Election in April and the deadline to place a referendum question on a ballot for the 2010 November Election is August.

Mayor Andrews stated streets have not been paved, the one full-time police officer position has not been filled; vehicles have not been purchased that are needed, repairs to the water system have not been completed, the Village has a limited staff and there still are deficits.

He added that some of these issues need to be addressed and the Village needs to have a plan on how to address the budget deficits. Mayor Andrews stated that home rule authority would allow the Village to use tools to increase revenues without putting the entire burden on the homeowner with property taxes. As an example, he noted that a neighboring community that is home rule added a 2 cent tax on every gallon of gas sold in that community and that money goes back to the local community.

Trustee Schnaufer inquired if the referendum question on the ballot for home rule authority is approved at the November Election, would that become effective immediately or is there a waiting period. Counsel Ramello stated that if the referendum is approved it would become effective when the Board of Elections completes the canvass of votes from that election and certifies the results. Trustee Bailey stated that home rule authority would allow the Village to try to obtain fees or taxes from individuals outside the community. He noted that counsel mentioned previously that the Village could not even enter into a contract under the terms of the Red Speed agreement because the Village was not home rule. Trustee Bailey stated there also was an issue regarding trucks parking at 70<sup>th</sup> Place in the business district and the Village could not even implement a fee because the Village is not home rule. He noted there are ways to generate income from people outside of the Village who are doing business in town if the Village has home rule authority.

Trustee Walsh stated that home rule authority would allow the Village several options to be proactive and would give the Board greater flexibility to seek revenues that do not place the burden on the property owners. Mayor Andrews stated that it would be appropriate for the Board to host a Town Hall meeting in July to discuss the Village's financial situation and to allow residents the opportunity to attend the meeting. A flyer can also be placed in Smoke Signals and an announcement also on the cable access channel.

Mayor Andrews stated that a Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall to address the Village's financial situation, budget and revenue enhancement alternatives. Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to call a special Board meeting for a townhall meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0). Mayor Andrews stated that a townhall meeting in July would allow the Board time to review the matter and to possibly vote at the August meeting to place a question on the November ballot.

#### **QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE BY INDIAN HEAD PARK RESIDENTS ONLY**

Frank O'Connor, stated he is present representing the Acacia Association. He thanked the Board for discussing the Acacia items that were presented at the last meeting. Mr. O'Connor stated that the bushes were trimmed back at Acacia Drive to create a better line of sight in that area for motorists.

He also noted that the Pleasantview Fire Protection District upgraded their fire alarm system and the cost of the installation was about \$126,000.

The new system is radio alarm and the fire department offered no charge to sign-up for installation as part of the contract. Mr. O'Connor stated the current fire alarm system will be phased out so Acacia signed the contract, Acacia currently was paying about \$40.00 every three months and now the fee will be \$80.00 per month. He mentioned that the Village may wish to check into the matter if the Village is asked to sign a similar contract with the Pleasantview Fire Protection District.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to **5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)** regarding probable or imminent litigation and **5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)** to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline or performance of specific employees. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnauffer, Walsh*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

## **RETURN TO THE REGULAR MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss before the Board, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to return to the regular Board meeting. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Anselmo moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:50 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary